

because women are becoming more and more the primary breadwinner.

On Sunday, this Sunday, a part of Women's History Month, we mothers, sisters, brothers, and dads will have the opportunity to cast an historic vote that will improve health care for all Americans and long-awaited gains for women in particular.

What women have to gain from this bill. Number one, no more gender ratings. Right now a gender rating system is used by many insurance companies in the current health care system to charge women more than men for the same health care insurance. Discriminatory practices are allowed in all but 12 States. With the health care reconciliation bill, women and men will be charged the same price for the same coverage. It only makes right sense.

What is the second thing we will do? You will no longer be able to see women struggling that they will be denied their coverage based upon pre-existing conditions. Women are often denied coverage because of past pregnancies, C-sections, and domestic violence injuries. With the new health care reconciliation bill it will be illegal, and that only makes sense, to deny women coverage or charge them higher rates based upon any supposed "pre-existing conditions."

And then what is the third thing? Expanding access to employer-provided health care insurance. Can you believe that right now less than half of American women receive health care through their employers? Why? Because more women work for small businesses, and they also work more part-time than most men. So because of that, their ability for health care insurance is hindered. With the health care reconciliation bill, small businesses will be able to afford health care and good choices. By joining with others in the exchange, they will have an increase in their purchasing power. And then most importantly, there will be tax credits to make it affordable for small businesses to have coverage.

And then what is the fourth thing? By this, when you look at currently, doing away with copays and deductibles for preventive care. Many women forgo preventive care such as mammograms because of the prohibitive high costs. With the health care reconciliation bill, which makes sense, we can emphasize the importance of preventive care and early detection. We can eliminate copays and deductibles for preventive care. And most importantly, we can encourage women to go to their doctors regularly, protect themselves from debilitating medical crises, and oh, by the way, save money too.

Women have much to gain with health care reform. Women, when you consider it, we also have much to lose for continued nonaction and status quo. What women stand to lose if reform does not occur, women will continue to be subjected to discrimination. Right now many women are being

charged 48 percent more than men for the same health insurance. It doesn't make sense and it is not right. We cannot continue to condone this discrimination in America.

If reform does not occur, women will be denied coverage based upon pre-existing conditions. And in eight States, including where we reside now, the District of Columbia, women are still being denied health care because they might have been victims of brutal domestic violence. If reform does not occur, some women will not receive health care even when they are pregnant and they need it most.

Women need the peace of mind that they and their baby will not have to worry about skyrocketing health care costs. Many companies today right now continue to not include maternity coverage. And as I close, this would mean that 79 percent of the women in individual markets today do not have maternity coverage.

Americans face discrimination. All Americans are currently facing discrimination with our failed health care policies. And women, their fate is even worse. The final reconciliation version of the health care bill includes equal access to affordable, quality health care for women and for all Americans.

THE JACK YATES BASKETBALL TEAM OF HOUSTON, NATIONAL CHAMPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow night starts what we call March Madness, college basketball playoffs for the national championship, and 65 college teams throughout the country will start competing tomorrow night. But there is one team that won't be there. And probably those 65 teams are glad this team is not there. It is not a college team. It is a high school team, and they are from Jack Yates Senior High School in Houston, Texas. They are now ranked the number one high school basketball team in the United States by USA Today and Rivals.com.

The Jack Yates Lions have won 58 consecutive basketball games in a row, going since last year, and two Texas State championships in 4A basketball. They have defeated their opponents by an awesome amount of points. They have won games by 88 points, 90 points, 98 points, 99 points, 115 points, and 135 points against the opposition. And that is just the margin of victory in those games.

In one game this year, on January 5, 2010, they scored 170 points in a high school basketball game, breaking the national record. That is an 18-year record set of scoring. And yes, they scored 170 points in one game. No wonder they weren't invited to the big March Madness starting tomorrow night in college basketball games.

They not only set the national record for consecutive games won over 100 points, they finished the season averaging 116 points per game, taking that title away that was 40 years old from a Hobbs, New Mexico high school team. They scored 100 points in 26 basketball games this year. They are a foe to be reckoned with. They have no competition in high school basketball anywhere in the United States.

They employ a strategy that is called "38 minutes of hell." It is a run and gun offense where the coach, Coach Greg Wise of Houston, Texas, plays all 15 players. Five at a time he puts them in. They run and gun up and down the basketball court, he pulls them out, puts another five in, throughout the game. And by the end of the game of course the other team is dragging, they are out of breath, out of energy, and they are out of points. And of course the Jack Yates High School basketball team wins the game.

In the State championship this year going into the fourth quarter they were behind by 24 points. They had a little conversation with their coach before the fourth quarter started, and they won the game by 23 points.

I want to commend this wonderful group of young men who live in Houston, Texas, for their zeal, for their energy, and for representing really what is good about high school sports not only in the State of Texas, but throughout the United States, and congratulate them on being the number one high school basketball team in the United States. Way to go, Lions.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BERKLEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, women of America, Republicans want you to believe that our health care reform bill is poison, that doing nothing is better for the Nation. But the truth is doing nothing is poison for the women of America. Insurance companies are cheating women from getting the health care they need. It is women that need health care reform the most.

Women have a harder time getting the care they need, women like Holly from Georgia. Holly is 3 months into her chemotherapy treatment for cervical cancer. She works at a small business that does not offer insurance to its employees, and she makes too much to qualify for Medicaid. But she thought she would be okay because of her husband's insurance. Then the devastating news came: her husband lost

his job. They shopped around for private insurance but were turned away by the best plans because of her cancer. They are now stuck paying \$850 a month to a private insurance company to cover their family of four, almost the same amount as her mortgage. It is just not fair.

It is so clear that women need health care reform. Did you know that women pay more for health care? Today they are forced to settle for less health care at a higher price. Insurance companies charge as much as 50 percent more to women over men for the exact same coverage. What is worse is that this blatant gender inequality is legal in 38 States. But health care reform will make this type of gender discrimination illegal. Insurance companies will be forced to do what is right: charge everyone the same rate for the same care.

Did you know that insurance companies make it hard for women to get preventive services even when it would save the insurance companies money? Today millions of women have trouble getting these kinds of services. They forgo important tests and screenings because they simply can't afford the copays. One-third of uninsured women go without preventive care for mammograms and pap smears, tests that could save lives if done today. But health care reform will require insurance companies to offer basic preventive services, reproductive health, and maternity care, and make these preventive tests free with insurance.

Did you know that women have less access to insurance? Today fewer American women have access to their own health insurance compared to American men. Without a spouse, women are twice as likely to be uninsured than men. And when women are denied adequate coverage or lose their jobs, their families are hurt, too. For single mothers, unemployment left this group skyrocketing with troubles, leaving almost one-quarter of all single mothers without insurance to cover their families, leaving 275,000 children without regular access to doctors' visits or medication. But health care reform will make insurance affordable for all women.

Did you know that insurance companies deny women health services? Today women are turned away by insurance companies because of supposed preexisting conditions. And what are those preexisting conditions? Believe it or not, they are domestic violence, pregnancy, and Cesarean sections. But health care reform will make it illegal to deny coverage due to any preexisting condition. Women will no longer be denied coverage for being mothers or finding a lump in their breast.

Insurance companies are cheating women every day, and women are suffering because of it. Health care reform will make sure that your mother, your sister, and your daughter will be able to afford the treatment that they need,

the best insurance they can afford, one that won't turn them away. That is why I strongly support this legislation. The women of America need health care reform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. It is so nice, Mr. Speaker, to see these fine looking young ladies out here today talking about health care. I really appreciate it. It's time that we saw all of you out here tonight. It's really nice to see you and I appreciate you taking the time to be here.

There are just a few things, ladies, that you really haven't talked about. You keep talking about this as if this is the only approach to solving the health care problem. You don't mention that for trillions of dollars less, trillions of dollars less, money that we don't have, the Republicans have proposed a bill that would allow people to buy insurance across State lines so they could get the very best rates.

We provided a bill that would deal with people to help them get medical savings accounts so they could put their money into a savings account tax-free, as well as their employers, and then they would use that money and they would decide when they needed to go to the doctor and when not. And if they didn't use it, it would build up in the bank account. And if they used it, there would be a major medical policy, also tax-free, that would take them up to an undetermined amount of money, maybe \$100,000.

You didn't mention that our bill says that you can take your insurance with you from one company to another when you move. And that is what I think most people want. They want to make sure that there is portability.

You didn't mention that we want companies, small companies to be able to band together in our bill so that they can buy insurance at the rates that the major corporations do. That is a pretty good alternative.

You didn't mention that we want tort reform, which will definitely lower the cost of insurance because there won't be all these frivolous lawsuits by trial attorneys. Incidentally, you don't have any of that in your bill because the trial attorneys you like, because they support you and they support the President. And the trial attorneys have got this bill in their pocket.

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You don't mention that our bill does cover preexisting conditions, and it

doesn't cost as much money. You don't mention that our bill provides a safety net for the people who are uninsured which will deal with a lot of the problems you have been talking about tonight. You don't mention that we're going to have a safety net for indigent people, people who can't afford insurance.

And let me just say this: doctors across this country don't want this bill. Hospitals across this country don't want this bill. The people across this country overwhelmingly don't want this bill. Do you know why? Because it's going to cost trillions of dollars that we don't have. And you know who's going to pay for all of this? The budget this year, as I said earlier, is \$3.78 trillion that we don't have. This is a new entitlement, and it's going to cost trillions of dollars that we don't have. And we're not going to be able to borrow that money from China and Japan and all of these other countries from around the world for very long.

So what are we going to do? We're going to print the money. And if America was watching tonight I'd say, Hey, don't worry about it. They're just going to print the money. So if you got a thousand dollars in the bank and we double the amount of the money in circulation, you still have the thousand dollars, but it's only worth \$500 because it will only buy half as much. But who cares?

And then, of course, the legislation that's going to cost trillions of dollars in addition to the trillions of dollars that you're spending on everything else is going to cause higher taxes. But, then, what the heck? In fact, in your bill, the taxes are going to go up by \$569.2 billion. Oh, that's chump change. Don't worry about that. The American people can afford it.

Heck, right now at 10 percent unemployment, I'm sure the American people are saying, Raise my taxes. The small businessman wants you to raise his taxes because if you raise his taxes, he won't be able to hire people, and he may even say, Well, I'm going to take a boat and take my business overseas because we can't handle this anymore because the taxes are too high. But what the heck. Who cares. It's just money.

The bottom line is we all want the same thing, and that is to solve our health care problems. But we don't want to give a hole that our kids and our grandkids will never get out of. They'll be paying higher taxes, and they'll be dealing with inflation. And they will look back on our generation and say, Why did you do that to us? Why did you do that to us?

And so when you tell the American people all of the things you're telling them tonight about these people are going to be covered and everything else, just tell them this: we have got a plan that will do it, too, and it will do it for a heck of a lot less money. It won't put the government in control of health care and have bureaucrats between people and their doctors, and it